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MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

AUGUST 30 2004

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Illustration by David White,
Cover photo by Lee Golden for AP/Wide World

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STILL FIGHTING OLD WARS

People change, so do circumstances:
it's time, at last, to put aside past politics

IN 1950, not long after Jean Lapierre quit the federal Liberal and co-founded the Bloc Québécois, I was born in his Parliament Hill office. He was deeply hurt at the collapse of the March 24th election and furious at Jean Chrétien for the role he felt Chrétien played in helping stifle the agreement. But Lapierre still flew the Canadian flag in his office, and on the walls display of pictures of himself with various prominent federalists, while

he spoke fondly of the joys of various parts of the country outside Quebec. If Lapierre was, in short, a secessionist, he was a most unconvincing and unconvincing one. After he left politics to become a media pundit, he lost his pro-secessionist fervor in the 1995 referendum—and his decision to return to federal politics this year has cost him plenty in sexual income.

A few weeks ago, the Conservative party was all over Lapierre because, thanks to his previous tenure in government, he was third in line in cabinet to act as leader in the off-and-on-of things. The Times appeared appalled by the idea—although their writers, cooked at the same time as Stephen Harper announced that he had hired a former secessionist, Richard Drouin, as his deputy chief of staff.

Times's gossips continue to be about personality's war—sometimes literally. That's why, in the United States, we hear more about what John Kerry did during the Vietnam War and George W. Bush didn't do than about where either proposes to do to lead the country to a better tomorrow. There may be millions of people in the U.S. who don't have a clue as to the electoral politics of the Democrats and Republicans—but can talk knowledgeably and passionately about the meaning of Kerry's secret record and Bush's absence of one.

The most unfair thing we do to politicians is to impose reputational stratagems on them. To the end of his days, Mike Harris will probably be described as "a former golf pro"—even though that's something he did for a brief while three decades ago. Clinton carried around his "lily" tag for more than 30 years after moving to Ottawa, although he

“We hear more about the Vietnam War than how Bush or Kerry propose to lead the U.S. to a better tomorrow.”

encouraged that description. As to flagging anyone with nationalistic credentials, even Chrétien once admitted that as a young man, he occasionally spoke ill of English-speaking people—and a friend pointed out to him that he shouldn't actually be so harsh on politicians until he'd

at least met some of two of them in person.

People change, so do circumstances: even our memories of past events are often revised or faded in the present consciousness. Based on the madness of the recent election, it's fair to accuse Lapierre if, say, being an unrepentant loose cannon and a loose cannon organizer as chief Quebec lieutenant to Paul Martin—but it's also time to put the outdated sovereignty debate to rest. It's been a quiet summer—almost enough to let the sour taste of the high-volume, six-year face campaign disappear. We have a sort of new government with an all-new mandate. Let's give them—and ourselves—the luxury of chilling out and at least waiting to find some new things to get angry about, rather than fixating any more on what's in the rear-view mirror.

Anthony Wilton-Bush

antonw@maclean.ca or antw@ed.mtl.ca

MACLEAN'S

Editor

Anthony Wilton-Bush

Executive Editor: Lisa Kane

Editor: Tony Smith

Editorial Assistant: Susan Hargrave

Editorial Assistant: Susan Hargrave

Editorial Assistant: Susan Hargrave

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'Oh man. To have a million dollars and not be content—wow, what kind of greed is this? I guess this is what capitalism is.' —G. Vincent Kennedy, Montreal

Behind the limelight

I was surprised that in your Olympic cover package ("It's go time," *Athlete '04*, Aug. 16), there was not one word mentioned about wrestler Gus Sossou, the most decorated Canadian international wrestler since 1995; he should have been included in your article about Olympic hopefuls. His accomplishments include a gold medal at the World Championships in 2003 and silver at the 1995 Worlds and 1996 Olympics.

LAURENCE HOLLIES, Columbia, Ont.

Nicolas Gill has been doing judo competitively since before I took up the sport 12 years ago. He won a bronze medal in 1992 in Barcelona and a silver medal in 2000 in Sydney. He has also been a pan-American and Commonwealth champion, not to mention three time world elite at the world championships. Yet despite all of his accomplishments, and being chosen as flag bearer in Athens, you only barely mentioned him and did not include him among your extensive great articles on the Canadian hopefuls in Athens.

Hall Tobey, Halifax

Understanding Michael Moore

Paul Wells denounces Moore's latest movie, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, as Bush-bashing propaganda, suggesting the filmmaker's personalised conclusion no matter the evidence. I have to disagree. Moore's movie plays less like a documentary and much like a persuasive essay or a lawyer's court argument. Plus, being biased doesn't diminish the strength of the argument when it is based on fact and logic. Americans should be proud of Michael Moore.

David Gaudier, Burlington, Ont.

Sounding the alarm

Sadly Canadians can see that when it comes to raising the terror alert we Americans are being duped by a corrupt administration threatened with defeat in November ("Playing the terror card," *Letter*, Aug. 16). They'll benefit by keeping their citizens fear-



ful—and that's not going to change unless we can dump George W. Bush.

Rob Haberstein, Pittsburgh

If no alert were given and something did happen, the cinema would bring the government for not letting them know.

Andre Grant, Montreal, N.S.

I worry about the long-term results of these alerts. After a while, the people might learn to ignore a real threat and many people might get hurt.

Bill Duncan, Vancouver, B.C.

The U.S. appears to take the threat of terrorism seriously, whereas Canada appears to

be blissfully ignorant, trusting that our non-participation in the Iraq war will keep us safe. The American decision to raise the terror alert clearly was based on intelligence gleaned from other sources you and I are not privy to.

David Libby, Maple Creek, Sask.

As the saying goes, "It's better to be safe than sorry." I am sure the people that live in the high-risk areas didn't feel it was a waste of time or money spent. But it is confusing to me that if they have enough secret intelligence to raise the terror alert, then why can they not track the terrorists down?

Greg Kobb, Chatham, Ont.

Brief extinctions

I was deeply upset after reading that three British organizations are suffering animal DNA because they predict that 25 per cent of mammal and 10 per cent of bird species will become extinct within the next three decades ("Protein ark," *Up front*, Aug. 16). Then, after saying back and thinking about it, I realized it's even more upsetting that this news only received coverage in your world brief section, instead of a cover story. After all, this is a big deal, don't you think? I am one reader who wants to know more about this disastrous situation.

Nichelle Macdonald, Sussex, Ont.

A fresh perspective

I am a regular reader of Donald Conc's great column in *Maclean's*. It is very refreshing to find someone who writes without the usual anti-American sentiments too often found in many Canadian media outlets including, in my opinion, *Maclean's*. Perhaps one day, more people will realize how important our neighbour to the south is to Canada on any level of ways. Please keep up the good work.

Jim Foley, Reynolds, South Africa

Donald Conc is right: it is hard to keep up with a country without living and working there ("Follow the leader," *Essay*, Aug. 16). Chicago-based Conc is wrong to praise "then finance minister Paul Martin for swelling fine... [when] the pension fund industry pleaded with Ottawa to raise the foreign content limit on pension funds." But in his earlier 2000 budget, Martin had moved the limit to 30 per cent from 20 per cent. If Conc uses his five-year return chart to persuade his clients to invest their retirement funds in Canada, a market that represents just two per cent of

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Edited by Ann Downett, Johnston



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Bruce Hagarty, Toronto

Reining in Prince

In your article about Prince, he claims that if everyone believed in God we would have a new Renaissance, a golden age ("Fresh Prince," *Music*, Aug. 16). Which God, though? His? Mine? My neighbour's? It's precisely that kind of thinking that has made the world the mess it is today. The solution to our global problems is not for everyone to believe in the same God, but tolerance for one's right to believe in their chosen God, or no God at all for that matter.

Lynne Chapman, Vancouver, B.C.

Wealth and borders

I agree with your article that, in today's terms, a "millionaire" is no longer considered wealthy in Canada ("The myth of rich," *Career*, Aug. 2). I'm a retired non-resident Canadian living in Thailand. I have slightly over \$2 million in investments, which



A disagreement with Prince's take on God

provides a comfortable living. I have a townhouse in Pattaya, a beach resort two hours from Bangkok, and am in the process of building a small three bedroom bungalow, which I expect will cost under \$100,000, fully furnished, in a subdivision close to the many nearby golf courses. Although I am not

lacking any of life's necessities, I live on only \$3,000 or less a month and do not consider myself rich by any stretch of the imagination. When I return to Canada to visit my relatives, I see how they live and how expensive most things are. If I were to return, I would have to seriously reduce my standard of living and doubt I could live as well as I do here. I would need at least \$3 million before I considered myself well off in Canada.

John Giblin, Kelowna, British Columbia

I am disappointed with your cover story on Canada's new definition of wealth. Basically, you should have chosen to do an article on the "new poor." Those lost under the cracks of society, people who work, and work hard, for their money will have to struggle just to pay the average on their \$100,000, 900 sq. foot homes. We watch our pension and dimes too.

Nadia Rofa, Cambridge, Ont.

I think it's a very questionable name to run a cover story about rich people at a time when so many of us are struggling to recover from the damage wrought by corrupt and greedy rich people. We live in a time when the actions of many of the privileged few are becoming less and less palatable, and their so-called confession pale in the wake of their explosive and cavalier behaviour. Hard work and good business practices are being eclipsed by get-rich-quick schemes, always to the detriment of society as a whole. To glorify this kind of unearned luxury as an entry to the race of us.

Mo Koch, Scarborough, Ont.

I read with much amusement of the lottery winner who bought a new Ford Explorer for herself and gave her Neon to her parents. Well, what a way to say thanks for a great evening. I hope my kids won't that cheap.

Peter Tipland, Vancouver

Freudian slip?

In your quote of the week in the Aug. 16 *Upfront* section, President George W. Bush's comment, "[Our enemies] never say thank you about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we," is described as "misquoting." Presumably, I'd say George W. spoke truer than he knew.

J. E. Miller, Fredericton

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CALLING ALL CANADIANS: SNAP IT AND SEND IT

The end of summer is just around the corner and that means there's running out to enter the Maclean's Great Canadian Summer Contest for a chance to win a polemic. Free 600—the new voice and email device with a camera, and more.

How do you see summer? Your best friend sipping cosmos on a rooftop terrace with the big city lights twinkling behind her? The wind in your partner's hair as he speeds along in his convertible roadster? A beautiful sunset at

Cape Breton Highlands National Park?

We're asking Canadians to send us their digital photo of a great Canadian summer scene. It may end up being chosen and posted on the Maclean's.ca photo gallery for other Canadians to see. Visit www.macleans.ca/summercontest to enter the contest and submit a photo. And visit www.macleans.ca/gallery to see the growing summer photo gallery. The site already features images captured by Maclean's photo staff—Peter Bragg, Andrew Tolson, Julie Nicholson and Jeff Harris—who've been out snapping shots of what summer looks like to them with the polemic Free 600 (retail value \$674.95), courtesy of Rogers Wireless.

The Maclean's.ca photo gallery is updated weekly, so visit regularly for new summer scenes captured by Maclean's photographers and Maclean's.ca visitors like you.

The contest runs until midnight EDT on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2004. Rules and regulations are available online at www.macleans.ca/summercontest. Photos entered must be JPEG format and no larger than a two-megabyte file size.

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Iraq | Has a truce finally come to besieged Najaf?

Like a chess match—but with real lives being sacrificed from the board, sometimes by the dozens—the battle for control of Shia Iraq continues in Najaf. At least twice now, Muqtada al-Sadr, the firebrand cleric leading the weeks-old uprising, has promised some kind of truce. But each time Iraq's interim government leaps forward to claim its prize, the deal or truce slips away to the west of heated anti-U.S. rhetoric and religious fanaticism.

In the latest escapade, last Friday night, al-Sadr agreed to turn over control of the revered Imam Ali Mosque to senior Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who was in London recovering from an operation. But in the end, all this meant was that al-Sadr's

gulfed militia would remove their weapons from the holy site and its large courtyard. They still dug in as best they could in the old part of the city nearby.

Militarily, this didn't make much sense. The militia's early safe home had been the shrine itself, when al-Sadr rebuffed a peace delegation earlier in the week from Iraq's National Assembly. U.S. firepower blasted the old city, killing 77 insurgents. Deaths may now mount others. But perhaps al-Sadr has staked a line of Shia fanaticism he can no longer—if he ever really did—control.

Quote of the week | 'He will survive to book seven, mainly because I don't want to be strangled by you lot.' British author J.K. ROWLING tells an audience of young readers that teen wizard Harry Potter, has at least two major adventures left in him

ScoreCard



LOCAL HEROES
Forget Olympics, the big events are taking place just around the corner. Two basketball men left fallen on all a driveway machine while Toronto possibly do same for boy dropped by narrow back. On heels of B.C.'s good Samaritans, Canada gets gift for summer heroes.



COSTCO
Discount retailer takes a flyer, selling out-rate baskets at two Chicago-area stores. Retailers shoppers feel out for retail heads' emotions. Can bigwigs' barrel left for behind?



FOOD AS WEAPON
Over 2,000 in Ishtar's kitchen. Ishtar's kitchen sinker in form of pills. Prison officials threaten outdoor barbeque to whet the appetite. Should certainly get bile fluids working.



TUTU GUY
Montreal provocateur with hiddenJulia's adventures. Athletes security with unscheduled dive in Olympic pool. Back enough that a thirteen-year high-fights. Canada's poor show at aquatics. But it's hard time he's pulled security being long stand at international event. Advice to Canadian travelers: brace for so-to-speak.

Mansbridge on the Record



A GARBAGE MIRACLE

The recycling of Toronto's old Terminal One, block by block, window by window

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, you've occasionally wondered what happens to all those items you dutifully load into recycling bins each week. Where do they really go? I bet there's even been the odd time, as you loaded your bin of papers or bottles or pop cans to the curb, that you contemplated the possibility that this was all a big sham—that the recycling trucks were simply going to dump it all into some landfill site along with all your regular household garbage.

You wouldn't have these doubts if you watched your recyclables go in one end of the truck as containers and come out the other end as something ready for reuse. Well, in a sense, that's what's happening now at a major deconstruction site at the country's busiest airport, Toronto's Pearson International. We're talking about an amazing on-site recycling project that's taking place under the unassuming gaze of thousands of travellers every day.

It's happening at the old Terminal One building, opened in 1964 as the airport of the future. For 40 years it proved to be just this, handling tens of millions of passengers who loaded everything from the venerable DC-3 to the inflatable Boeing 747. But early this year, Terminal One looked a lot different, and within hours of the opening of its nearby replacement, the sleek, modern-by-2004, new Terminal 1, the old building was set to be dismantled.

“It may be the biggest recycling project in our history. The project is so self-contained most of the material will never leave the airport.”

ing. In this case, the

deconstruction is painstakingly slow, but it's rewarding for a different reason.

When the \$12-million deconstruction project is finished—a full 18 to 20 months—an astonishing 85 per cent of what used to be Terminal One will have been recycled. That means everything, from the roadbed and steel girders to the glass windows to the tons of concrete that formed the structure and its multi-level parking garage. Most of the material will never leave the airport. A portable cement factory will be on place soon, and the huge amounts of ground-up old terminal that are recyclable to sports stadiums and their stadium windows will soon be reborn as a huge concrete pad to fill in the massive hole left where the old structure stood.

I admit that I'm often left in awe by airports and what happens around them, but I do think this is something that should be celebrated. It may well be the biggest recycling project in our history. But just to show I'm not in the pocket of the people who've assumed the transformation of Toronto's new look airport, let me close with this related, albeit less glamorous, story.

When I flew back from the Atlanta Olympics the other day I loaded, after more than 11 hours of flying, on time, to the minute, 16 bags of clothing. Then began the bad news: first the bus from the plane to the main terminal was a delay of 10 minutes. Then the lineups at the more than a dozen customs gates stretched the length of the holding area—well, another 30 minutes. At last, I thought, all that time would mean that our bags would be ready. Wrong. Another 30 minutes. And I was the lady wearing the baguette of life. You can only imagine the whispers that prevailed from fellow travellers—I've since learned a “stern CBC” no longer cut the terminal doors. **B**

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The Atkinson. He can be reached at peter.mansbridge@cbc.ca.

FaceTime



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Bismarck, 66, and his 10-year-old
wife, Dora Schöner-
Kugel, 45. The former
member of their

household is three-
year-old Victoria.
Adopted partly
from a 14-year-old
boy, Victoria is
one of an estimated
300,000 Australian
children who, for a
variety of reasons,
are in foster care.



Bothering men
he says, he quit cold
turkey in January,
and never felt on
toxicology. Still, it's
1121 years
later, saying
Bismarck's name
turned up in a police
investigation of a
Florida firm that
sold soy-wax
Bismarck's case.

Sacrificial pawn
Savvy, selfless
status, chess grand
Grandmaster
Bobby Fischer, 63,
now wants to study
Mikhail Tal, Grand-
master of the Soviet
Chess Association,
to avoid deportation
from Japan. He
faces jail time in
the U.S. for violating
immigration by alleg-
ing a big money
match there in 1992.



Sad princess
Japan's Crown
Princess Masako,
46, may finally
emerge from
isolation to attend
a wedding in the
Southwest Asian
state of Iran.



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WORLD

IRAN In an ominous warning, Iran put both Israel and the U.S. on notice that America does not have a monopoly on pre-emptive strikes. Backed up by the recent testing of a mid-range missile, the threat is meant to deter attacks against Iran's controversial nuclear facilities—a source of much U.S. concern. In 1982, Iraq's secret nuclear reactor was bombed by Israeli jets.

REFUGES: A *Insuffis* measure of 160 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, mostly Tutsi women and children in a camp in neighbouring Burundi, may be drawing fast region back into war, UN observers said. The perpetrators were a group of fictional Hutus, master enemies of the Tutsis and said to be backed by the Congo

REDEPLOYMENT Democrats weren't happy, but the Bush administration is moving ahead with plans to bring home nearly 70,000 U.S. troops, quartered mostly in western Europe and South Korea. The point is to have the soldiers available for use elsewhere and also, presumably, make them less prominent targets for terrorist attacks.

In a similar move, the United States is creating five new command centres along the Canadian border, from just south of Vancouver to near Montreal, equipping each with a plane, a marine unit and two helicopters to each stragglers.

THE MUSEUM OF THE ADAMS

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE QUEBEC SOVEREIGNTY MOVEMENT:



ALL GROWN UP She holds the record for being the world's tiniest woman. When she was born, Maureen weighed just 710 gms (1.6 pounds)—less than a can of pop—and was only 26 cm long. Today, at 15, she's a redefining Elanor: you have to go to enter high school.

VENEZUELA Popular President Hugo Chavez secured a recall vote, winning nearly 58 per cent of the 8.6 million ballots counted. The results were approved by international observers, but the conservative opposition claimed fraud and vowed to continue trying to oust Chavez, who has turned Venezuelan politics on its ear by courtng the poor.

CHARTER SCHOOLS A comparison of fourth-grade test scores across the U.S. found experimental charter schools lagging behind public schools in both reading and math, even when results were adjusted for income and race. A decade-long experiment, these schools are publicly funded institutions run by parents or private organizations, often with a particular bent.

SAFES Passengers and drivers of SUVs are nearly 11 per cent more likely to die in an accident, largely because of rollovers, than those in cars. The new U.S. findings show the widest safety gap yet between the two types of vehicles in 10 years of record gathering.

BUSINESS

AIR CANADA Nearly a year and a half after landing in bankruptcy protection, Air Canada overcame a huge hurdle: its major creditors approved a plan that should see the carrier back on its feet by the end of September, while they call up with nearly 88 per cent of the company.

WORTEL Not a good week. The troubled tech giant fired seven more service franchise officials and announced plans to lay off 3,500 addi-



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Appendix

1995

2

| Age Group | Prevalence (%) |
|-----------|----------------|
| 0-10 | 0.5 |
| 11-20 | 1.2 |
| 21-30 | 2.8 |
| 31-40 | 4.5 |
| 41-50 | 6.3 |
| 51-60 | 8.1 |
| 61-70 | 9.9 |
| 71-80 | 11.7 |
| 81-90 | 13.5 |
| 91-100 | 15.3 |

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1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 26

normal employees—10 per cent of its workforce—in a desperate plan to get back in the black. The only people who seem to be getting any because of Ford's are the RCMP, who announced a criminal probe involving upwards of 20 officers into the firm's questionable accounting practices.

94. Uncertainty in Iraq and Russia peaked



BAPTISM'S FONT

Archaeologist, full-time media through a film with 21 stops and a camera show for local churches. A new find, older still, is the cave where John the Baptist was born. John the Baptist was born outside Jerusalem, and near where John, a distant cousin of Jesus, was born. The 21-stop tour was dug before his time. But the well coverings, including one of a preacher in a fur coat, seem later, perhaps done by monks paying homage to where John performed his early rituals.

the price of oil is just under US\$50 a barrel. While a record, it's well below the value of oil during the OPEC shock in the late 1970s when inflation taken was around

CANADA

VIETNAM For 35 years there has been a halfway house in Vietnam, B.C., to help serious of

funders adjust to living in ordinary society. But during the past eight years, insurgents have committed three murders, armed holdups, and have even run a counterfeiting ring from the facility. The most recent incident was a real shocker: a 79-year-old man was tied to a chair and beaten to death by a murder on day parole. Local residents say enough is enough—they want the place shut down.

DOCTORS Meeting in Toronto, the Canadian Medical Association released a poll that found nearly 60 per cent of Canadians like the current health system but only 45 per cent feel it can be sustained. The CMA also asked governments to cough up \$1 billion for new doctors and map the Canadian Pension Plan from investing in tobacco companies.

LOUVER Meeting in Winnipeg, the Canadian film Association voted down two proposals that would federal lawyers in there with directors, even so-called vulnerable films.

WELFARE Following a wave of provincial tough love, and helped by a broadly beating economy, Canada's welfare rolls shrunk by one million people between 1994 and 2000, saving governments \$4 billion in annual outlays by the end of that period.

HIPO FLU Every day without exception, 17 million laughing heads line B.C. post-youth farms are once again free to send their babies and children to the most modern, modern, modern facilities. However, a disaster storm of the virus has issued its head since more in Vietnam—where at least three people have died from swine flu—as well as Malaysia and South Africa.

CONFESSION Manitoba pedophile Robert Archman, 42, serving a life sentence for kidnapping and killing a 15-year-old girl. The Pan Man, in 1994, surprised a parole hearing by asking most reasonably about "15 or 16" other young girls. He had to be expected to spend a long time in prison.

WILDS The Canadian Wildlife Society has been told to stop handing out new bibles to endorsing organizations, something it has been doing for some 50 years. Donors do not want to be handing out bibles in an larger connection with Canada's secular nature.

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Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



RADICAL SURGERY TIME

The health care debate should be about how to do things best, rather than who pays

IT TOOK a grueling day in a hospital emergency ward in my husband's chest that broke the quiet I once again saw the obvious: the system remains dysfunctional. After all the money. And all the talk. The wrong patients are still bunched in emergency because they have nowhere else to go for minor injuries. The waiting rooms are still staffed. The personnel are harassed. While the case was urgent, the experience was draining. That very evening, we tentatively watched politicians scuffling for advantage in the lead up to the upcoming federal-provincial health summit, their play acting as no reason for distraction.

It was depressing. And, initially, I made no look for easy fixes. Should we allow private for-profit hospitals? After all, patients for-profit clinics do everything from ultrasounds to blood tests with prompt, cost-effective competence. As long as governments reimburse the sole payer for services, as long as no one could jump the queue by paying, why should it matter who delivers the care?

Also, many governments, including Ontario, are leath to risk such questions—especially because the answers are complex. But public hospitals might cut waiting times. But nothing will work without reform. Gov-

“As long as government is the sole payer, as long as no one jumps the queue, why should it matter who delivers the care?”

“The public versus private debate is phony, played on both sides.”

Doctor's secretly makes sense. Clinics are better than hospitals for routine procedures—because there are less forms. They cost less partly because they don't operate on a 24-hour basis. And if they concentrate on a specialty such as hernias, their skill is honed. So governments should lower their caution: they could perhaps pay more for simple procedures done in clinics instead of hospitals. Complex cases would get higher fees—and would likely be done in hospitals.

In this framework, for-profit hospitals could work—but there might not be any need for them because public hospitals would also have to perform services, cutting waiting times. A recent review of U.S. studies shows that care at American private-for-profit hospitals between 1989 and 1995 cost 19 per cent more than at not-for-profit hospitals. Sure, wages in private facilities would likely be lower. In person, salaries for what are essentially monopoly services, like hospital nursing care, gobble huge chunks of extra health-care dollars. But private investors demand big returns—and their executives would be happy pay and compensation packages.

So what should we do? If provinces such as Alberta are hell bent on experimenting with for-profit hospitals, the media could be fascinating. It would require more regulations to ensure managers don't overcharge, reject tougher cases or take private patients. But public hospitals would also compete. “It is competition on itself that is essential in the delivery of publicly funded care,” says Senator Michael Kirby, author of a private health report. Kirby would permit private for-profit hospitals. Intensely, I have doubts. But politicians can no longer pretend the system is working. Because it isn't. **■**

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. maryjanigan@maclean.ca

Passages

WON The lazier of the teenage phenoms, 18-year-old Darren Wallace from Langley, B.C., is the youngest-ever winner of the Canadian Amateur golfing championship. He was a comically fit kid into the Bell Canadian Open next month, Canada's premier PGA event at the famed Glen Abbey course in Oakville, Ont.

DIED Frank Carmichael, the youngest of the three brothers who dominated organized crime in Quebec for decades, died of brain cancer. He passed away at his daughter's Montreal home at 72.

Cornett, who spent years in prison on drug smuggling and manslaughter convictions, was also implicated in the coroner's inquest of the assassinations. Last December, he published a cookbook of favourite family recipes.

DIED He was the big-headed centre who paved the way for his gifted countrymen to play in the NHL, and led the Czech Republic to hockey gold at the 1998 Olympics. Ivan Hlinka, 54, died from injuries sustained in a car crash west of Prague. He played for the Vancouver Canucks, later coached the Pittsburgh Penguins, and had been recently named coach of the Czech national team.

RESIGNED Lynn Landon, chief partner of the Quebec Superior Court since 1996, is quitting after being asked to appear in court to face unpaid driving charges. Ms. Landon, 68, was allegedly driving with an alcohol blood level above the legal limit when she straddled a highway road grader on a Montreal expressway.

DIED Premier Conservative MP and senior Jack Marshall, a Second World War hero who went on to become commanding officer of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and a tireless advocate for senior's issues, died at 84 in Miramichi, N.B. His son, Wes Marshall, is Newfoundland's current justice minister.



THE MACLEAN'S INTERVIEW



Sound | Janet Cardiff, artist

‘THE CITY AS A SYMPHONY’

HAVE YOU ever caught a fragment of conversation and been briefly pulled into another world? That's what Janet Cardiff's work does. The Ontario-born, Berlin-based artist, who has won both the Venice Biennale (with her husband, George Bures Miller) and Canada's Millennium Prize, is best known for her narrated walks. Wearing headphones, you're guided by her voice through sites like London's Whitechapel Library, Villa Mairea in Rome or, currently and to much acclaim, New York's Central Park. Immersed in layers of sound and story, the real world blends with the created one. Cardiff, who is now working on a piece for the Smithsonian, explains why we need to open our ears.

Why sound?

It's like anyone—why does someone get into cooking? Because they've got a certain sensitivity to taste. Sound really engaged me because it was another world that was in trouble but one I could transfer people to.

But we live in such a visual culture. Sound is evocative but without the immediacy of sight. Isn't it more ignored now, in both senses, because the sound of our cities is important. When we were in New York, the mayor ordered certain sounds, like ice-cream trucks. We don't think enough about sound: how many jobs are coming in, or about structure or building designs.

So do you like the hum and cacophony of the city, the sounds we barely notice nowadays? No. I'm always trying to find quiet spaces. One of the first lines in the Central Park walk is how you have to think about the city as a symphony, otherwise you'll go crazy. So I think this soundscape of multiple horns and alarms, and some people take off their headphones and go, "Where are all the horns coming from?" They're hooked. One woman said she had studies of 8/11 right away. But the problem with cities is, it can make a regular hum that turns everything crazy.

You grew up on a farm. Did that affect how you hear the world?

It was a very quiet environment—if you heard a plane, you heard that one plane. City kids learn to put up defenses to shut off environmental information, lowering their sense of hearing. My high-midwestern way has made me to my films never having been turned on.

Listening to your work creates a very intimate experience. How do you do that?

When you put on a headset, it's almost like a symbiotic relationship. In the way I record, the sound is in the middle of your head. And I use what I call a thinking voice. I don't intentionally make my voice say—it happens to be easy to some people—but quiet.

Does your work relate to pop culture? Of course. Since the advent of TV, we're all kind of voyagers. But when you're fixated on something out of its context, it can be more fascinating. So rather than being a voyeur, I'm showing how the common-place is interesting. **JANAL HAMILTON**



NOW OR NEVER

Medals were scarce and the swim team sank. But this week, our athletes could give us something to really cheer about.

LET OTHERS OBSESS about Canada's slow medal start in the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens. The national baseball team has better things to do, both on the field and off. This is the first appearance by a Canadian team since baseball became a medal sport in 1992, but the roster is a mix of up-and-comers, minor leaguers and ex-pros could run a clinic on Olympic spirit, on national pride and, oh yes, on winning—a concept that eluded many of Canada's athletes in the first frustrating week of these Summer Games.

The ball team leads a Canadian march into this week, and what many expect will be a series of more heartening performances. Because now that the focus shifts mercifully away from the underperforming swim team to the sports in which Canada truly excels—diving, track (see Sydney gold medalist Simon Whitfield defends his title on Aug. 24), and track and field at the Olympic Stadium. As Roddis Felician, the reigning world champion in the 100-m hurdles puts it, “It seems the Olympics don’t really start rolling until the *athletica* begin.”

At these Games, there’s some truth in that. Canada has medal hopes in an array of athletic disciplines. Even the missing link to the high jump, Felician, of Felician, Ont., and swimmer Priscilla Lopes of Whistler, Ont., and Angela Whyte of Edmonton, are all fighting for a spot in the 100-m hurdles final, one of the week’s marquee events. “Look forward to some great results,” Felician says.

The baseball team, spurred by winning its first four games, have advanced to the semifinals, though the players themselves are seeing for nothing less than a place in the gold-medal game this week. To do that, they’ll have to upset Cuba or Japan, whose teams arrived in Athens as the favorites (in the round robin, Canada lost to Japan 9-1 and to Cuba 5-0). Still, said first baseman Peter Orr of Richmond Hill, Ont., “We control our own destiny now.”

Baseball and softball are a splendor to soccer and Greece. Spectators at the first game played by the Canadian women’s softball team were urged to keep balls hit into the stands and to please not throw them back onto the field.

In a close week, the ball team helped keep things loose.

The crowds at halfgames have been thin, even by the spartan attendance standards of these Games. None of that matters to second baseman Stubby Clapp of Windsor, Ont., who first played for Canada at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg. "If there's 50,000 or there's two, we're going to play hard every day," says Clapp. "We play because we love the game and because we love representing our country."

Not long, they forgotten to have some fun. Clapp has taken to carting around the team mascot, a hobbie bandolero he picked up in Canadian Rockies, bearing the likeness of crossville transman Jason Morrison, who was called up to the Monsters Team before the event left for Europe. Halflayers, analocasionally the hobbie head, have popped up at soccer jams, during and offball, cheering for Canadian transman and downing a beer or two—unlike most of their abasman fellow athletes.

Dave Redford, Canada's chief de mission here, says the ball team's existence may be reason why spirits remain high at the athlete village, despite the slow medal start. At first he said Canada's best hopes come later in the Games, he said while waving to the grandstand at the Scholastic rowing venue, where the men's four won silver on Saturday. And the men's world-champion eight was set to open week two against a cracked U.S. team in one of the great confrontations of these Games. "We know going in that our medal opportunities were pretty back and loaded," Redford said. "That's later in the game, yet."

Redford concedes it would have been nice to carry more heat, more out of the village. Madak's generic energy in the village, he says. "There's a sense of excitement to go on a bit of a roll. If people start hanging, I'm sure some medals." Back head coach Alan Gardiner is among those whose team athletes are expected to deliver the goods. He predicts 75 per cent of his 26 athletes will finish in the top 12, with several on the podium. Gardiner says this goal is more achievable since the crowd was an average of 100,000 fans in the stadium. The International Olympic Committee. It sends a message to drug cheats: "It will be



Proctor prepared for her leg race with strength training and poetry recitals.

what, you're not safe anymore," Gardiner says. "People are scared, people aren't showing up to games who in the past would flank their new heads in the faces of everybody." Last week, star Greek sprinter Kostas Kordas and Elanorini Thanas made a strategic Olympic withdrawal, avoiding sanctions from the IOC for missed drug tests.

This soap opera hasn't exactly curbed the African embrace of these Games. Ticket sales finally crumpled over the three million mark last week, though with some two million tickets still unsold, there are often as

many Olympic volunteers as paying customers at lower profile events. Canadian sprinter Nicolas Mousouris, a medicine man in Athens because of his Greek roots, says drug cheats and the violence down own Palaia district will hurt customers who've been scared away by fears of terrorism and chaos.

There have been a few transportation problems, but hardly the disaster ward had predicted. In fact, the chief Canadian complaints come from head racing coach Truett Richardson, who says the cry of brand of usually lead-lined bus picture has proceeded

with excruciating caution—slowly driving his army crew of type-A rowers to distraction during the hour-long trip to their boats. "They don't seem to understand the urgency of what we're doing," he complained.

The glitches, though, have been minor, the security so intrusive as a 70,000-strong force can be, and the heat, well, the heat is hot. It landed veteran Canadian halfplayer Rob Dewey in an Athens hospital after he

fainted, supposedly from dehydration. Athletes are never far from a water bottle, and before an event, most are in a Canadian-designed cooling vest to lower their core temperature. Perhaps the greater performance challenge, though, is dealing with stress and the pressure of expectations—both their, and the country's at large.

Some of the heat stress is able to come out the distractions, and the stress to come



NO SECOND COMING

IN THE END, there was no doubt as to whether the best desired by that Greece has produced in quite some time. Confronted by the IOC, hounded by the world's media, disgraced in the eyes of their fellow athletes, sprinters Kostas Kordas and Elanorini Thanas withdrew from the Athens Olympics, saving themselves only the final humiliation of being thrown out on their ears.

The saga, which dominated the Games' first week, came to a shattering halt last Wednesday, unable to offer a convincing explanation why they ducked pre-competition drug tests—first in Chicago, then at the athletes' village—or back on a dubious tale of injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash, the pair surrendered their Olympic 195 to IOC investigators. "I will not take part in the Games. I will not race," Thanas, the women's 300-m silver medalist in 2000, told reporters. "It's a very hard struggle for athletes to withdraw from the Olympic Games, especially when they're in their homeland."

Kordas, who came out of nowhere to snatch the 200-m gold in 2000 and became a national hero, went down proclaiming his intention. "After over five years' career," he said. However, his second Olympic career (initially the pair and their now ex-coach Christian Tzoukas have been linked to the ongoing American BALCO drug scandal). And one U.S. newspaper reports they were identified as BALCO athletes wearing athletes that officials might be looking for. The, a previously undetectable, undetectable. Quitting the Games may have been their only way out.

JONATHAN KATZ/HOUSE

ON THE WEB For more Summer Games coverage, including daily updates, photo galleries, reader polls and more, visit www.msn.com/athens2004.



Gardner could now remain in two events

international crew! Canada's two top dippers, Alexandre Despiau of Laval, Que., and Tim the Hayman of St. Lawrence, Que., both competing on the 10-m platform, trained differently for this week's events. Hayman stayed in Athens, where her coach Michel Larocque says she maintained an almost scary sense of focus. Despiau trained away from the distractions of the athletes' village. Canada's medal chase is not something he wants about. "There's no risk between our performance and anybody else's," he says.

There are others to watch this week: two-time let's-keep-it-silver medalist Caroline Brunet, middleweight Jill Savage, youngest Kyle Sheffels in the men's floor exercise, and the men's 100-kg relay sprint team assembled by coach Glenroy Gilbert. The entire track team this year, in fact, seems more cohesive and less prone to debilitating bouts of ego. Some credit goes to the fun-loving Pelletier, who has taken to giving inspirational poetry readings from her balcony on the Olympic Village, both to break the pre-race tension and lighten the mood. A favorite is an uncredited work in a book she picked up at the Olympic museum here. She quotes the first line from memory: "I am not an Olympian because I am fine. I am not an Olympian because I am strong. But I am an Olympian because others are faster." Be actors have ranged from applause in the courtyard below, the taps, to a South African athlete on a nearby balcony who dropped his pants and mooned her. She is unimpressed by negative reviews. International readings, always, helped her up the next day.

The ball team also has a new game ritual. They sing O Canada in the bus ride toward the stadium. It's a song that hasn't been played much on the medal podiums of Athens. They'd like to modify that.

ROWING

BY KEN MACQUEEN



After an incredible race, Williams, Weibel, Henschelwerth and Barry won silver

Sometimes greatness isn't enough

AFTER THE HEROIC ROW to the finish by the Canadian men's four last Saturday, after the photo finish showed they'd failed, by a mere 1/100th of a second, to catch Great Britain, Buffy Williams walked across to the Olympic medal podium as reality would permit to receive a silver medal being dispensed over his husband Barry's head. It was rowing that brought them together, and rowing

this often keeps them apart. Her father-in-law, Tom, gave her hard on affectionate squeeze, but mostly the stood alone, peering through a wall of bodies and cameras, applauding, tears meaning down her face. Forgotten for the moment was crown race, barely an hour earlier—a fourth-place finish with pairs partner Darcy Marguardt. The silver was Canada's second of the

Games, and perhaps an appropriate symbol for a first week filled with near misses. But for the crew of the men's four—Olympians Barry, Jake Weibel, Sam Henschelwerth and Williams—the medal was welcomed with anguish as well as disappointment. They lost, by about the span of a small hand, in a crew headed by renowned British rower Matthew Pinsent. "It's hard to explain," said

Barry, "but it's just an amazing feeling to be in a race like that."

In the last Olympics, it was Buffy, as part of the women's eight, who won bronze, with Barry cheering. Saturday, the women's pair grabbed the early lead only to be overtaken by the winning Romanian pair. Afterwards, Marguardt and Williams gave each other a long embrace. "We both said we did our best," Marguardt said, fighting tears, "and that's what we came here to do." Then Williams sought a quiet place to watch her husband's race. They've been apart much of the racing and summer, Barry training in Victoria, Buffy in London, Ont. "I'm so

proud of him, he stood his heart out," she said to the last strokes of the British national athletes faded away. "They were racing against legends."

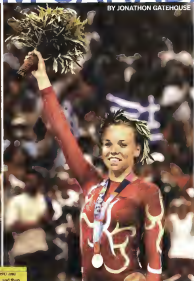
The silver ended a Canadian run of bad rowing luck. The women's eight and lightweight double rowers Fiona Milne of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Mara Jones of Aurora, Ont., failed to reach the medal round. The pair of David Calder

of Victoria, and Chris Jones of St. Catharines, Ont., were disqualified Wednesday from the medal race after straying into a neighbouring lane as the closing minutes of a preliminary race. Admiring scenes of appeals were nowhere. "That's my last Olympics," wife admitted Calder said after the last appeal failed. "I've got a young family—it's time to take care of them." But Canada had two more chances to redeem its reputation as a rowing power, under heavyweight coach Mike Spradlen and head coach Brian Richardson, who were held near around awaiting men's program after a win shut out in Sydney. Richardson's crew, the lightweight men's four, was to race Sunday, along with a crew in rowing's showcase event, the men's eight, coached by Spradlen.

The eight than Spradlen's commitment to victory at almost any cost. He called a crew meeting after its cyclical second as a preliminary race here, their first loss in two years at a major international event. It was a wrenching experience. One by one, each member stood up and spoke of the sacrifices made to get this far, failed relationships, young children with absent fathers, missed opportunities, injuries, economic hardship. It was nothing they didn't know, nothing that isn't experienced by all members of the rowing team and by most of Canada's athletes in Athens. Still, it brought a tight crew even closer. "Gardner was around and talk about this stuff too often, but when you do, it makes a big impact," said crewmate Brian Pines, a survivor of childhood leukemia.

When it was his turn to speak, Spradlen, who has coached crews to more than 30 world level medals, told his crew a gold medal is forever. Similar performances can happen anywhere, he said. But here are made at the Olympics.

BY JONATHAN GATEHOUSE



WINNER: KARINA COCKBURN, AND THEN HEYMAN, COUPONED CANADA'S FIRST NEEDLE

Finding a place on the podium

KARIN COCKBURN doesn't remember much of a flus surrounding her bronze-medal win in Sydney four years ago. "I'm joking, but just graduated from high school gym to the Olympic Games, and other winning Canadian athletes—Simon Whitfield, Curtis Myden, and the women's eight rowers—were getting most of the attention. There was a whirlwind of interviews, of course. And when the get home in Toronto, there were

some nice congratulatory letters from the mayor, business organizations, even a note from the prime minister of the day.

It's rather a measure of how her sport has grown, or how hungry Canadians were for the hardware last week, that Paul Martin's office was on the phone literally two seconds after she won silver in Athens. The reason for this had been feeling a little tight—not that you had to tell Cockburn, a

gold-medal contender going into Athens. "People are always telling you, 'Oh, we don't have any medals yet,' especially when you're in a place where you're expected to win," she says. "You feel it, and you put even more pressure on yourself. That's why I was so nervous today."

Leaping on legs so shaky that she was forced to tone down her celebratory routines, Cockburn, the reigning world champion,

came tantalizingly close to grabbing the gold. Settling in first with four competitors to go, she spent 10 long minutes waiting to see that 11, and then where she would land on the podium. In the end, only Anna Dogorodits of Georgia landed her score, winning by just four-tenths of a point. Cockburn's teammate, Heather Ross McMann of Almonte, Ont., finished sixth.

It was a nice bookend to a week that saw the Canadian team struggle to find its rhythm. Rhythma Marley of North Vancouver and Erin Heymans of St. Lambert, Que., captured the country's first medal, a bronze in 10 m synchroized diving on Aug. 16. Coming

just two nights after the pair finished a decent seventh out of eight teams in the 3 m springboard, it was an inspirational performance. But it was one that the original odd couple—Hartley is a self-proclaimed nervous wreck on the diving board, while Heymans is a cool under pressure—that you keep checking the pool to see if she's left any so in her wake—had little time to savor. Both are medal favorites in this week's individual diving competition. "I was scared, I'll be honest," says Hartley. "Knowing that you did one bad event and that anything can happen, I didn't want it to happen again. And Erin and I, we didn't know what to do so far."

By the time they arrived at the pool Monday night, however, they had found their answer—the 23-year-olds had decided to stop riding their Olympic thing quite so seriously. They joked around in the warm-up, cracked one under their breath as they stood on the edge of the platform, and found humor in the misery of competing before a worldwide television audience while carrying a nation's hopes on their shoulders. "On the tower, my mind was going a mile a minute," says Hartley. "At one point, I said to Erin, 'I'm so stressed that I don't know what I'm going to do,' and she was just laughing at me."

The heavily favored Chinese pair of Tao

Lisits and Li Ting, who seem to float rather than plummet through the air, took inhaled on their first dive and resurfaced back. The equally diminutive Russians passed the Canadian for the silver with their fourth of five dives. Hurley and Heymans earned, on ailing a difficult back 2½ somersault 1½ twist combination on their last dive. Then they wanted to see if the final pair, from Mexico, could catch up.

A glitch in the electronic scoring system left Canadians in the stands and pool deck hanging for long, anxious minutes. "I was hoping that somebody would get the difference out for me because I was about to have a heart attack," says Mitch Geller, the team's head coach. Hurley sat writing in her bathing suit, shaking all the while. Heymans, who was a diver in the same event with Anne Mozzammy in Sydney, went and got changed. All business, she took off the victor's laurels as soon as she left the podium (so smugly, she explained later). "I gave reasons," she said. "It makes me want to come out strong and make me really well."

There were other strong Canadian per-

THE BEST HE COULD DO

There are 26,000 competitors here, and just 301 medal opportunities, so the definition of success depends on the athlete. Traver Stewardson, a 30-year-old high-flying weight boxer who mounted a legal battle to make the Canadian team, won his first match but lost against Ahmed Benel of Egypt. To risk, he'd moved to Medicine Hat, Alta., 11 months ago, leaving his wife and two young sons behind. Thunder Bay, Ont., his hometown impressed Damon Wells, his boss at the Alviner gas station, who continued to pay Stewardson's full salary even when the fighter had to be away competing or was spending more time at the gym. Points of other would-be businessmen in Medicine Hat contributed money. Stewardson will go back home to his family after the Games, but he will be eternally grateful for the help he received out West. "We wanted to take our kids that dream are meant to come true," he says. "I've been living mine." **JB**

formances that fell just short: David Ford, the star waterwater jumper, came fourth in the K1 slalom, pushed out of third by the Bulgarian in the competition. The women's 400 freestyle squad—Monique Kawasalski of Appin, Ont.; Julie Leschke of Montreal and Sherriane Macleod of Brooks, Alta.—fought gamely but dropped in bronze medal match to France. Marie-Hélène Chablain, a judoka from Vancouver, Que., narrowly lost her bronze-medal match. The beach volleyball team—Gyline Dumont of St-Amand-de-Tilly, Que., and Annie Maran of Sherbrooke, Que., along with John Child and Mark Hovis, both of Toronto—advanced to the final 16.

Even those who finished out of the running found consolation in stellar performances. Weightlifter Marvin Tormen, from Brampton, Que., finished 13th in the 58 kg class. The 29-year-old fell more than twice; his body weight over his head, and agonized a personal best with a combined 210 kg in the match and clean-and-jerk events. Sporting an ear-to-ear grin, he talked about how the result made his brutal schedule of the last two years—juggling training while continuing a master's degree in hospital administration—all worthwhile. "You don't play weights, you know, you lift weights. It's serious work."

There were heartbreaks too. Nicole Gill, the Canadian flag bearer and defending silver medalist in 100 kg judo, underclocked out of the semifinals in the final round. A downcast Gill, who struggled back from serious knee surgery to make the Games, says he has probably reached the end of the Olympic road. "It's obvious that I'm getting older," he says. "Quicker cycles. I'm 30 years old, ready to make a change in the way we train, but we had to invest in a coach and was unable to find. David Nixon, who was double tennis gold in Sydney, and his now-partner Frederic Niemeyer lost in the second round to the reigning American. Open champions Niemeyer was too upset even to talk. His partner could not defend. "It's my playing for Canada, playing for your country, playing for your sport," said a subdued Nixon, "and you know Canada is not doing this great well, and so you want to do well."



Ricky Janos, who finished 18th in the 400-m freestyle

Stuck in the slow lane at the pool

RICKY JANOS tried to reach out to the pool deck for the men's 200-m freestyle final. He was startled. He drank in the packed crowd. He felt the giant scoreboard that had his name alongside Australian Ian Thorpe, U.S. phenom Michael Phelps and the Netherlands' Pieter van den Hoogenband. "You could see his goofy grin from high in the stands."

In a black and red body suit, say, a 25-year-old from Salinas Arm, B.C., gave Canada something to cheer about none of the greatest Olympic swimmers of all time—a third-to-best clock of the sport's biggest event at these Athens Games. Swimmers line up, the outside position reserved for the slower, qualified swimmers. Say, come out wrong—he was in third at the 50-m turn—but ended

up sixth. In a freestyle final, Thorpe powered home on an Olympic record time of 1:44.71, with Ian Thorpe and Michael Phelps close behind, denying the 19-year-old Phelps's quest to be Mark Spitz's mark of seven swimming golds, set in 1972. Afterwards, a still-soaking Janos made no excuses. What happened? "The best guys in the world went by me."

Unfortunately, that became the theme for Canada's performance in the pool, even so many where the field was not nearly so tight. For the first time since 1964, the Canadian team failed to win a medal, making just three starts, with only one of its 20 men being—Mike Brownlee, the 200-m freestyle, and Nathan Aspinall (a Canadian by birth, but a product of the U.S. swim system) in the

shaved more than 3.5 seconds off the Canadian record, but still finished fifth. Brown, who shattered the Canadian 200-m freestyle stroke record but still finished sixth in the final, and Canadian don't understand how hard it has become to reach the podium. "That bronze medal final was the fastest ever in history, by a large margin," says the 30-year-old from Perth, Ont. "Every ounce of energy I had in that pool. That's in there."

But there's a swelling chorus calling for a wholesale restructuring of Canada's swim system—our athletes need more money, better training and, above all, new leadership. "This is what I'd much rather," says Mike Tinkler, who won a basketball gold and relay bronze in Barcelona. "It's frustrating to see so many other countries, on the day, pull it together, drop five seconds, get in there and win a medal." Tinkler says there is a lack of accountability at Swim Canada, and that head coach Dave Johnson needs more power. "We've watched the standards go from medals, to bronze, to personal bests," he says. "Come on, we're better than that."

Johnson, in charge of Canada's swim efforts since 1995, spent 45 minutes answering questions following the men's 4 x 200-m final, gently trying to offer perspective. "Everybody's saying this could have been better, and that could have been better. But if you look at where we were ranked in the world before that meet, that's where we are." However, it seems unlikely he will keep his job. The American and Australian dominated the pool, but there was still some room on the podium, with 17 other countries, including Zimbabwe and Trinidad and Tobago, earning medals.

There was one medal that none, so many shattered swimmers, like Jennifer Francis. In her first Games, the 30-year-old from Sudb. St. Marie, Ont., scored a silver for the 230-m butterfly final, but fell in an agonizing 3:10th of a second short. "This is the Olympics. It's been my goal since I was six or seven years old. It's basically everything I've ever wanted." She said, shaking her head. "We have to change some things and figure out how to beat the rest of the world." Hopefully, someone's listening. **JB**

CANADA'S OLYMPIC SWIMMING RESULTS SINCE 1964

| | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Los Angeles 1964 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Seoul 1988 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Barcelona 1992 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Atlanta 1996 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Sydney 2000 | - | - | 1 |
| Athens 2004 | - | - | - |

*Source: U.S. swimmers beyond the Games. Source: Canadian Olympic Committee.

ONLY THE BEGINNING?

Hurricane Charley caused billions in damages. But as this storm season intensifies, experts say the worst may be yet to come.



BY THE TIME Hurricane Charley made its way north to New Brunswick on the evening of August 13, it was a mere shadow of itself. Forty-eight hours prior, Charley had wreaked devastation on the state of Florida, leaving thousands homeless, killing 23 and causing an estimated \$9.6 billion in damage. In Saint John, however—despite the precautionary flood watches issued earlier—it was just another very late summer night.

The calm came as a relief to Adriane Caruana, who'd had their share of trouble with storms recently. Only two days earlier, Tropical Storm Bonnie had caused flash-flooding in northwestern New Brunswick, resulting in backed-up sewers, flooded basements and the death of at least one person. In Halifax, many are still recovering from the physical and economic effects of last September's Hurricane Juan, the most destructive Atlantic Canadian storm in more than a century.

Still, experts are saying the worst may be yet to come for the eastern seaboard. For the seventh year in a row, meteorologists are forecasting an above-normal number of tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean. Due to abnormally warm ocean temperatures in the tropics, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted that 12 to 15 tropical storms will form during this year's season, which began in June and peaks in September. Of these storms, six to eight are expected to become intense ones, with two to four reaching "major hurricane" status.

For eastern Canadians, this means the threat of another Juan is very real, says Bob Robichaud, a weather preparedness meteorologist for the Atlantic Storm Prediction Centre in Dartmouth, N.S. Naturally, he says, hurricanes form in the tropics and the Gulf of Mexico and travel north, losing their intensity by the time they hit the coast west of the Canadian coast. But this year, par-

ticularly around Newfoundland, the waters are one to three degrees warmer than usual. "We're concerned about a situation where one of those hurricanes comes up and moves over an unusually warm patch of water before making landfall, similarly to what happened with Juan," Robichaud says.

As such, the word on everyone's lips is "preparedness." Last year, meteorologists were alerted to find that, despite more than two days' notice that Juan would blow ashore in Nova Scotia, thousands failed to heed the warnings. "It was a real weekend in late September," says Robichaud, "and people were not enjoying themselves. That, combined with the fact that we hadn't had a hurricane of the caliber usually long-term, meant that people just didn't react as we had hoped." In response, Environment Canada has implemented new measures to heighten a hurricane awareness. "We're doing a lot more outreach work with the media and the Emergency Measures Organization," says Robichaud. Also, they've introduced a new set of hurricane and tropical storm watches and warnings. "If people hear them, they'll know to expect these conditions within 24 hours."

According to Paul Kovacs, executive director of the International Catastrophe Loss Reduction, a not-for-profit research institute based in Toronto and London, Ont., the annual cost of natural disasters is doubling every five to 10 years. This, he says, is due to climate changes that are causing more severe weather conditions, and to the fact that more people are living in high-risk areas.

Still, because much of the damage caused by a hurricane is preventable if people take protective measures, such as insuring in a disaster supply kit and hurricane-proofing their homes with protective window film, covered of tanks and reinforced chimneys. "The cost of basic prevention is not expensive," says Kovacs. "The key is knowing how to keep yourself safe. If we could have prevented even half of the damage caused by Juan this way, it would've helped a lot." ■

Charley left thousands homeless but spared Canada. Next time, we may not be so lucky.



GIVE DUBYA A HAND —GET VIOLENT

What's the surest way to secure a second Republican victory? Trouble at the convention.

ON AUG. 30, the Republican party holds off its national convention in Madison Square Garden in New York City. Delegates will be granted by as many as a million protesters, by some estimates (including a fair number of Canadians). An array of 10,000 police officers—many of whom will be decked out in riot gear—will be on hand to broker the encounter, ready to display the very latest in crowd management techniques. Violence is on the agenda, and while New Yorkers themselves aren't too keen, it would seem that both the

protesters and the Republicans welcome the prospect.

Among the demonstrators will be the usual gang of activists and anarchists who've been a familiar sight on the global radar since the WTO protests in Seattle in 1999. Though they appear to be focusing their energies on one party—the Republicans—it's clear that many of them see the convention as just another opportunity to advance the anti-globalization agenda, a woman (that's mostly correct) reproductive, not to mention data given for democracy.

New York 2004 is shaping up to become a replay of Chicago 1968, when thousands of student radicals, civil rights activists and counterculture rebels descended on the Democratic National Convention. There are some worrisome parallels, even beyond the matter of widespread anger over the escalation of an imperialistic war in a place many Americans couldn't find on a map. In 1968, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley took a hard line against demonstrators, at one point giving specific orders to police "to shoot to kill any anarchist and to shoot to maim or cripple anyone looting." At the same time, city officials made it very difficult for demonstrators to engage in lawful protest, by systematically denying permits to hold rallies and marches. When the tear gas finally cleared, 658 demonstrators had been arrested and 111 hospitalized.

Jump ahead to 2004, when police forces everywhere have adopted a militarized response to crowd control. Forces are often used

to control demonstrators into beerlines, where they are met by riot police wielding clubs. Tear gas and pepper spray. Meanwhile, city officials have sent activist groups by denying them the right to assemble in Central Park, suggesting instead that they stage their rallies on Queens. That is the little set for a wave of violence that promises to make Chicago 1968 look like a rugby match.

For many demonstrators, violence is not an unfortunate hazard of legitimate political protest—it's the goal. Like the riotous radicals in 1968, those heading to New York City are less interested in affecting the outcome of a presidential election than they are in catalyzing a social revolution. What they really appear to see are not the specific policies of George W. Bush and the Republicans, but the entire regime of representative liberal government and the economic system that supports it.

In Canada, we got a taste of this thinking during our own recent federal election, when the national media suddenly became obsessed with "alienated" young Canadians. In all of the articles about young people who did not intend to vote, it was clear that the widespread disenfranchisement with electoral politics was just another aspect of the general disillusion among youth who are weary from globalization and its capitalist consumer culture. Many appear to have been convinced by the old liberal characterization of representative government as the "executive committee of the bourgeoisie."



In more updated forms, the claim is that corporations have become so powerful, they exercise effective control over government.

You didn't have to look very hard during the election campaign to find someone willing to fly a kite for this position, but for pure, unadorned alienation, you had to check in with the Fabfile Fabfile Society, a group that urged all its go to the polls and cast our ballots in protest. On its website, the society argues that, "It doesn't matter who you vote for, the government always gets to—the government being big

New York 2004 is shaping up to be a replay of the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago

business, and those who can afford to fund political parties are big lobbyists. The elected party is just the class public trunk on the feet of corporate power."

This attitude is on clear display among die-hard Republican protesters, though it promises to manifest itself in far more aggressive forms than ball-tossing. In a recent article in the online magazine *Salon* about the upcoming protests, a writer/blogger named Jason Firth with a degrees that the point of the rally in New York is to "kill all fear into the power structure." In the same piece, another blogger, Monica says that, in addition to protesting Republican policies, he would "like to see corporations involved in the Iraq reconstruction get targeted—anyway from occupation is property destruction."

That should not be dismissed as the overplayed cry of the activist fringe, since there are plenty of responsible media and individuals probing the same agenda. The *Nation* magazine—leftist, but hardly fascist—

is promoting a pro-convention piece called "Beyond Bush: An Evening of Viscerality Resistance." Featured speakers include the writer Wiley Post, Michael Albert of *Z Magazine*, and our very own Naomi Klein. In case the fundamentally revolutionary tone of the proceedings is not obvious, note that the event mostly touches a theme day devoted called "Life After Capitalism 2004." The registration website for the festival features a line from a Zapatista communiqué as its epigraph.

What is most disturbing about the prospect of street battles in Manhattan is how it plays itself into the hands of the Republican party. The registration website for the festival features a line from a Zapatista communiqué as its epigraph. What is most disturbing about the prospect of street battles in Manhattan is how it plays itself into the hands of the Republican party. The registration website for the festival features a line from a Zapatista communiqué as its epigraph. What is most disturbing about the prospect of street battles in Manhattan is how it plays itself into the hands of the Republican party. The registration website for the festival features a line from a Zapatista communiqué as its epigraph.

Many. To the extent that the anti-convention protesters can be identified as at least partial supporters of John Kerry, the violence will only help secure Bush's status as the home land security candidate. The rioting helped Nixon in 1968, and it could very well help the Republicans again.

Perhaps the protesters don't particularly care. It may be that the Fabfile Fabfile Society is right: it doesn't matter whom you elect, because all you get are different shades of manure. Ralph Nader certainly thought so, which is why he decided to run for president in 2000, almost certainly costing Al Gore the election in the process.

But if you believe that it does matter, even just a bit, who wins the election, and if you believe that Al Gore might have decided to use 9/11 as an excuse to invade Iraq, then it's hard to avoid the conclusion

that Nader has a lot of Iraq and American blood on his hands. To the claim that democracy merely offers voters the choice of the lesser of two evils, the comedian Rick Moranis offered Canadians that would be simply an election day in June. In a democracy, it is extremely important that the lesser of two evils wins.

If you're really invested in seeing Bush out of the White House, you'd best rethink the protests in New York and stay home. Canadians: write a letter to your MP on a topic of national concern. You'll be surprised in how thoughtful many of our politicians can be when given the chance. If you're an American, and you really hate Bush, spend the week sobering up your local Democratic party office. Not as much fun as a social party with the Cuban partners in Manhattan, but politics is not supposed to be fun. When Nov. 2 rolls around, you'll finally have the chance to do something really radical for democracy. You can get off your ass and vote.

Andrew Potter is the author of *The Great Sell*. Why the Culture Can't Be Amused, invitation Sept. 15.

FRUITFUL WORK

B.C. scientists are raising the bar on wine research, writes SARAH EVERTS

TASTING THE FRUITS of laboratory labour is not a typical perk for most scientists. But when Steven Land signs a delightful cabernet sauvignon, he is, in fact, doing research. Land is an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia's Wine Research Centre, and as he savours the rich red liquid, he's considering more than its ingrained aroma, rich flavour and consistent taste—or that a hint of chocolate? Land is also thinking about the grape's genetics, wondering exactly which biochemical signals the fruit to begin ripening or which contributed to the wine's bouquet.

Since being established in 1998, the wine centre has examined everything from how yeast ferments wine to which British Columbia soils produce the best grape varieties. In February, Land and his collaborators received Canada's biggest wine research award to date: \$3.1 million from Genome Canada to sequence the fruit, seed and skin of the cabernet sauvignon grape.

This coup for the Vancouver-based research centre will help launch Canada into the forefront of wine science. (Although researchers around the world have sequenced sections of other grape varieties, including chardonnay and pinot noir, no one has undertaken such an exhaustive genomic analysis of a single type of grape. "It's not

really going to advance grapevine genomics, we really need to focus on one single varietal," says Land.

Canada may be one of the youngest wine-producing countries in the world, but it takes wine research seriously. In addition to the UBC facility, there's British University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute in St. Catharines, in the heart of Ontario's Niagara wine-growing region. "We have all the set-up to produce

OTHERS have sequenced sections of a grape variety, but no one has tackled such an exhaustive analysis

the best wine in the world," says Martin Godwin, Genome Canada's president. "Why don't we make it with the technology we have today—and the technology is the genomic technology." Genome Canada, which Ottawa launched in 2000 to fund leading-edge genomic research, selected the UBC facility because of the university's proven expertise in the field. The same team that sequenced the SARS virus in record time in April 2005 will help Land

figure out the grape genetics behind a famous bottle of wine.

HUMANS HAVE tinkered with the grape for at least 6,000 years. Nowadays, wine researchers analyze the components of vineyard soil; measure temperatures, wind and rainfall using wireless gauges; and experiment with irrigation and the planting of wildflower meadows for their grape vines. Even so, winemaking remains an educated guess. "I do things, all winemakers do things, whose answers can't be found in a textbook," says Bruce Nicholson, senior winemaker for Jackson-Triggs, a decade-old Canadian label that produces wine in both Niagara and B.C.'s Okanagan Valley. In fact, after 19 years in the industry, Nicholson says he's convinced that winemaking is more an art than science. "Ten or 12 years ago I would have said it is mostly a science, but I've realized that's not the case," he adds.

Genomics is starting to change all that. Earlier this year, genomics untangled a seemingly straightforward puzzle that had long eluded researchers—wine colour. It was well known that a grape's skin pigment called anthocyanin is what makes red wine. But why isn't it present in white grapes? All grapes—red and white—have two versions of a gene that directs anthocyanin's production. In



Genomics will shed light on the cabernet sauvignon grape's fruit, seed and skin

Many Japanese scientists announced in the journal *Science* that in white grapes, both genes are mutated. Grapes with two red and genes are so dark they're almost black. Red grapes split the difference, with one gene mutated, one normal. (Red wine enthusiasts like mine: anthocyanin also helps grapes retain quality—the bitter molecules that give red wine its charming astringency.)

For Land and his colleagues, the focus is on the complex interplay of genes and the environment. First up: grape ripening. Small, pea-size green grapes slowly grow to their full size over 12 to 14 weeks—and then suddenly transform into much denser clusters of days. It's the grape's equivalent of puberty, and the biochemical transformation can be just as complex. Land estimates that about 30,000 genes are involved in ripening. As the newly mature grapes age on the vine, sugar accumulates, acids decline, flavour and aroma compounds are synthesized and red grapes acquire their pigment. Land hopes that once viticulturalists have the genetic blueprint, they will be able to tailor vines, their vineyard and harvest to the exact ripening time and flavour they want. "The whole point is to build not just a high quality wine," Land explains, "but a consumer's high-quality wine."

MANY PEOPLE red when GMOs (genetically modified organisms) are discussed in the same sentence as food or beverages. But Land knows that the goal of his research is not to produce genetically engineered wine. If, for instance, Land found genes in wild grape varieties that could improve flavour, or help grape vines withstand fungal infections or other pests, he would breed the plants traditionally. "If you want GMO

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WINE 'SCIENCE'

Genomics. It seems, in and man's latest attempt to graft science on the noble grape. Same earlier approaches.

1750 BC

The Egyptians prescribe wine to purge the body of viruses, regulate the blood and, most badass and act as an enema.



1000 BC

The Greeks, aware that lead kills, bacteria, store wine in lead vessels to aid in preservation. Unfortunately, lead also kills humans. Beers, still found in rebuffs, is later added as a natural preservative. In sports, swimmers are doped in wine on the belief that if they go into convulsions as a result, they have epilepsy.

200 BC

Data, a Roman politician, suggests flowers soaked in wine as a cure for snakebites, gout and constipation. Storing wine mixed with acidic porphyries is taken for tapeworms and gripes.

33 AD

Roman soldiers reportedly give wine to Christ on the cross, to act as an anesthetic.

DARK AGES

Monks clarify red wines with egg whites and white wines with fish bladders. Clarification improves taste and shelf life.

MIDDLE AGES

Monks make wine in France. Introduce "fort," a



system of classifying wine. An impressed Pope Alexander III exempted them from the ban on 1171—and in 1380 threatens to excommunicate anyone who challenges the law.

1630

In Britain, the switch from wood- to coal-fired ovens creates more durable glass—and stronger wine bottles. Thus,

along with the introduction of cork stoppers, improves wine's shelf life. But bottle makers can't produce consistent sizes, so in 1686 Parliament bans the selling of half-bottle wine when a bottle is bought in barrels and then stored in bottles.



LATE 1850s

Louis Pasteur determines that fermentation, the process that converts grape sugar to alcohol, is performed by yeast.

1991

The French Parliament decrees that wines where the French can eat so much fatty food yet avoid heart disease. Red wine is credited and sales spike briefly. SE

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Laidt and colleagues will shake up the raging hormones of the pubescent grape.

technology you could spend it up to 10 to 15 years potentially," he says. "But if the consumer doesn't want it, we're not going to go there." Still, researchers haven't closed the door. "Inserting a grape gene into an other grape plant is a lot different from putting a pig gene into a rat plant," says Laidt. "You're even using a rat plant, but you can cross grape vines. If genetic engineering becomes acceptable to the wine drinker, we'll see this on shelves."

So what exactly do wine drinkers want?

It's a question researchers are paying more attention to these days. There's a big new wine globalism category of wine, more of an ethnic label category. But market analysts show drivers were genetics, vines, and sophisticated techniques and complex flavor. There's now, point to researchers play on. Over 40 different molecules called terpenes responsible for nuances of grapefruit, grape, black pepper—and many more. And wine is being produced in different by grape genetics and is remarkably sensitive to its environment. The subtle differences, for instance, between delicate sunlight and heavy shade on grapes alters the assembly of the various flavonoids.

Unraveling the interweaving of sunlight and genetics is what Laidt calls the new "science" of the vine. Knowing which hormone control terpenes production might become viticulturalists to control some bouquet but not others. "Wineries are still very much in the mercy of Mother Nature," says Howard Stein, Kelowna Winery's master winemaker.

in Kelowna, B.C. "You can't predict the hail storm we had a few weeks back. Or the 40 degrees today." With genetic knowledge, growers might be able to compensate when too much sun—or too little—threatens to alter the flavor of the grape.

On the horizon is the half wolf, such as the genetic hybrid crossing a grapevine. Winemakers have known for centuries that drying leaves and bunches off-vine organically creating drought conditions produces smaller, more desirable berries with concentrated flavor. But so far, wineries have not been able to duplicate what nature did.

VINTNERS are still at the mercy of Mother Nature, but with genetic knowledge they might be able to compensate

perfectly works. Laidt believes a variety of wild berry genes are named on and off when the plant is forced to determine which terpenes have the most impact on flavor and aroma.

A little less, a little more—winemakers have long known these are important in gradients in producing a grape worthy of being bottled. And soon the science of grape genetics will help explain how such scorching ingredients work at the molecular level. For those who love wine, it could be the ultimate marriage of art and science.

All Business | STEVE MACH



FLAG-WAVING ISN'T ENOUGH

Why nationalism and nostalgia couldn't save Molson and Hudson's Bay

HERE IS A BIT OF INVESTING WISDOM you can take to the bank: when a company starts draping itself in the Canadian flag to attract customers, sell the stock. It's not that nationalism doesn't exist in this country. Canadians are a quietly patriotic lot, and never is that more apparent than at times like this, when the Olympics provide a global stage for flag waving and cheer-champing. The trouble is nationalism doesn't sell in this country. It never has, it never will.

For proof, look no farther than your local business pages, as Canadians come to grips

with the possibility that two of our oldest pub companies, Molson Inc. and Hudson's Bay Co., may be acquired by foreign owners. Molson was the made of a merger with Cellars Inc. and the Glaxo-owned Adolph Coors Co., and the Glaxo unit reported this month that the flag is at stake with Minnesota-based re-licensing Tiger Corp. and may be taken over.

All this has sparked a predictable sort of self-scrutiny about the loss of our corporate icons. The Bay trades in Canadian roots to 1678, Molson was founded in 1786, and the thought that both will be run from U.S. head offices, with American executives calling the shots, is just more than some folks can stomach. The Glaxo stake on the Bay's downtown Vancouver location and nested shoppes if a stake of the chain would affect their buying habits. Oh yes they said. There's no doubt they'll spend my hard-earned dough in a store controlled by the Yanks! No word on where if you parents might shop instead.

Americans owned Stein for the pride of Arkansas, W.V. Mary?

It would have been more useful to hang out in the parking lot of a local Wal-Mart and ask shoppers why it is that, as just 30 years ago, when the Canadian market, the company has gone from 15 per cent of the country's total department store sales to 52 per cent, while the Bay and its discount chain Zellers have slipped from 40 per cent to 31 per cent. The sad truth is, the Bay is not falling victim to a voracious foreign invader, but to its own failures. Nobody ledged in customers—they walked away.

The same goes for Molson. The company's "A True Canadian" ad campaign in the

summer of 2000 when "Joe Canuck" teased about foreign takeover of Canuck culture. The ads were a roaring success by all measures, but one: they didn't sell much beer. In 1999, Molson's core brands, including Canadian, held 36 per cent of the domestic beer market. That has slid steadily since then, to about 28 per cent, according to Veritas Investment Research.

Molson's answer lay in falling to recognize that its key market was splintering. Middle-of-the-road beverage Canadians were losing out to macro-brands and price-oriented. Molson fell back on a panoptic ad campaign designed to appeal to a customer it already had—the quantity-beer-quality beer drinker—rather than trying to capture consumers leading the market's growth. In-

THESE companies aren't falling victim to a voracious foreign invader, but to their own failures... Nobody kidnapped their customers—they walked away.

stead of buying a "premium" beer under Stearns Breweries, for example—Molson wrapped itself in the flag, and got crushed. Its net income dropped 15 per cent last year. And that is a huge reason why it's now trying to join another fading train in Coors.

The Bay also attempted to make its history and nationality a selling point, becoming more with passion of the makes and its company's original 1670 charter. In so doing, it has demonstrated just how little it understands today's consumers, they've all disappeared to high end specialty stores or to discounters. Rather than evolving with its cus-

tomers, in all successful companies must do, the flag dug in its heels and waited for the market to return to it, because... well, because it's Canadian.

The numbers tell the story. The chain saw sales decline by 2.2 per cent and profit down by 38 per cent last year. Granted, Hudson's Bay stores are open now 35 per cent this year, but Merrill Lynch analyst Patrick Fisher doubts that a real turnaround is under way. Instead, specialists have laid up the stock in anticipation of a takeover. "We cannot recommend HBC's shares on any fundamental basis, as the company continues to surrender market share as a result of increasing competition from all sides," she wrote in a more recent report.

Contrast that with La Senza Corp., a lingerie retailer that has prospered without more Canadians realizing it's a homegrown company. La Senza's stock has almost tripled since the start of 2001. The company gave customers quality merchandise at a reasonable price in intimate stores. No flag waving is necessary because La Senza's business speaks for itself. Instead of chasing

after the good old days, it's responding to the U.S.

All things being equal, it would be preferable to use the Bay and Molson than in Canadian hands. But it's better that they sell out to Americans than face the fate of Enron's, as another Canadian

chain that failed to change with the times. For the money who lost their jobs when the chain's chain went bankrupt, there was no solace in the fact that the termination notices were signed by a Canadian.

If Hudson's Bay shareholders can get \$16.50 a share in a takeover of the company, in some reports suggest, they should consider themselves lucky. As for the rest of us, we should leave nostalgia and nationalism for insurance and sporting events, and demand more from our corporate icons.

steve.mach@mclean.rogers.com



the first, or last, time the sisters came under the microscope. They participated in two large tests, the first, a developmental study at age 5, the second, a follow-up developmental and psychological study in their late 20s. Much later, after losing a friend to breast cancer, they were moved to provide mammograms and a health history for a study into the genetic factors influencing breast density. Being poked, prodded or queried, it seems, is part and parcel of living a twin's life. That's because there's very concrete stakes: harm (essential to scientists seeking answers to the most fundamental nature/nurture questions in the human genome). Are we born with specific traits or the capacity for certain diseases, or do we merely pick them up along the road of life?

With an *epigenetics* twist, the *Twins* of all multiples have, of course, tested the human imagination far and wide: from Greek mythology through Shakespeare to the August issue of *Nature*, in which U.S. presidential vetoes James and Barbara Bush swan about as persons like genes. But while our fascination has a long history, today's multiplicity has a novel set of circumstances.

Thanks largely to the descendants of infertile couples seeking to assisted reproduction technology, which can involve implanting several fertilized eggs in the uterus, conceptions in the midst of population booms. The number of multiple birth babies in Canada jumped 35 per cent between 1979 and 1999 (while still births fell). One offspring of their the *Twins* is pictured with another dedicated to twin associations, support groups, family photo albums and *Twins* crossing over the loose ties of time: Jan and Jan. Another development has been the proliferation of twin conferences and festivals, where multiples converge to share and celebrate their unique condition of birth. (More on Jan for *Twins* Festival, for example, had a special twin parade this year that drew 2,000 participants.) Meanwhile, all of this is making its way to the lab of human behaviour.

Today's exploration in the twin populists, says Kerry Berry, a University of British Columbia psychologist who heads a 30-year-old environment-twin research branch of 300 pairs of adult twins, is "it's great thing for science." Just about anything can—and does—get measured using what's called the twin method. Seeking genetic clues, researchers have probed

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, Nancy Grundy and Susan Palmitz shared life as a single egg. Because that egg likely split sometime between day 1 and 12 after conception, it produced mirror-image identical twins. "If one of us got a tooth on one side," explains Palmitz, "the other would get a tooth on the opposite side." The same is true for the natural parts in their hair and would be true, they believe, of their handedness had

Palmitz not been forced as a child to be like her sister and write with her right hand. Their mirrored, mysterious confounded family and friends so much that up into their 30s, says Grundy, their mother would ask them to wear Ward 5 brooches to big family functions. It also headed their teenage pictures in the Hall of Kids (display at the Ontario Science Centre in the late 1960s). That wasn't

The parade of twins at this summer's Jan for Janets Festival in Montreal

PRIZE SPECIMENS

Fertility drugs have sparked a bumper crop of twins and a field day for geneticists who want to know: do twins hold the key to human nature?

twins for height, weight, heart rate, eye glasses, depression, social withdrawal, social tenderness, post-traumatic stress disorder, IQ, opposition to authority, jealousy, infidelity, creativity, substance abuse, criminality and aggression, to name just some examples. In his 1997 book, *From the Mind of a Mother*, Canadian-born scientist Steven Plomin, now at Harvard, and the ranks of identical twins especially are astonishingly alike, in everything from spelling abilities to hobbies, votes and opinions on such things as the death penalty. "Identical twins separated at birth," he wrote, "share traits like entering the water backwards and only up to their knees, shirking out elections because they feel insufficiently informed, obsessively counting everything in sight, becoming captain of the volunteer fire department and leaving life-line notes around the house for their wives."

TWINS HOLD THE KEY for scientists deciphering the genetic makeup of life, explains Daniel Plomin, a behavioral scientist at the Université de Montréal, because with out their geneticists "would be looking for a needle in a haystack." What's important is that there are two types of twins, what scientists call a natural experiment: about a third are monozygotic, identical twins who develop when a single fertilized egg splits in two, and thus share the same genes; the rest are dizygotic, fraternal twins who develop when the ovaries release two eggs and, the way things work, only 50 per cent of their genes. "If there is a greater resemblance of the trait under study in monozygotic than dizygotic twins," says Plomin, then that trait is considered to be influenced more by genetic than environmental factors.

The relationship between personality and finger lengths was the subject of a University of Michigan test that caught Maynard Harper's eye: when learning about it through a multiples email list he belongs to, the 29-year-old pharmacy technician from Orléans, Ala., phoned her fraternal twin sister Connie Sanderson. "How'd you like to make 30 babies, U.S.?" she asked. It took more than three hours for each to fill out a questionnaire and phenotype their hand-drawn time that Sanderson, who lives in Canmore, Alta., wondered if her money was really worth the effort. Well, she and Harper signed up again this spring for another study on post-traumatic stress disorder, part

of Jorg's UBC investigation. The \$25 for another three hours of filling out forms, says Harper, isn't the point. She's motivated more by a sense of duty. "We're never going to learn," she points out, "if we don't have enough pairs."

So what's the verdict? Is a nature or nurture that shapes human destiny? Well, the answer is still unclear. Since 1975, University of Minnesota researchers have been looking at twins raised in different homes. Their findings suggest there is a strong genetic influence on IQ, for example. But they qualified their conclusions by noting that even twins with separate upbringings shared broadly similar middle class environments. So—the similarities may be as much cultural as genetic. And scientists are really just starting to grapple with the idea that while genes for certain conditions or even personality traits seem to exist, they can be dormant if nothing in the environment triggers them.

Meanwhile, Plomin has thrown a wrench into many of the early twin studies by questioning the time-honored twin method, which allows scientists to compare the two types of twins. Early results from the Quebec Newborn Twin Study, Canada's first large-scale longitudinal analysis of twins, suggest that because fraternal mothers tend to treat fraternal twins more as individuals, and identical twins more as a unit, the basis for just comparison could go out the window. Earlier twin studies, Plomin says, possibly inflated the genetic role.

When you ask twins themselves where they stand on the nature/nurture debate, Grandy and Plomin come down on both sides, with slight bias toward nature. While their parents treated them as individuals, they've nonetheless followed similar paths. With their respective spouses, they've been living a few blocks from each other in Pickering, Ont., since their early 20s. The interested third child, Daniel, is one big thirty-Nancy even named Susan's eldest when Susan had difficulties. They've spent every birthday together at the family cottage but their 47th, when Grandy was pregnant at a Gail Gorden's conference, Plomin had volunteered with the Boy Scouts in So, when they both show up somewhere and find themselves in the middle—a phenomenon many scientists use to think because they've shared some experience, or because they



Grandy and Plomin: twins' brains, sure, but do they really think alike?

share the same genes? "I know we have this connection, but we don't work hard at improving that mental atrophy thing." Well, no. But if we had really worked on it, would we have had it?

GRANDY AND PLIMIN knew just one other set of twins while growing up: multi-plato siblings also 1978—the year the test to tell baby was born—were likely to encounter for more. When Jeanne Maynard takes his five-year-old identical twin sons, Matthew

and Andrew, and 17-month-old son, Charlie, to the park, they run into in many scenarios sets of twins. The Maynards live in Ottawa, Ont., which apparently has a high multiple-plato birth rate. Stricker in Germany, Scotland and Belgium have linked such concentrations to the proximity of certain pollutants, but a high number of couples undergoing fertility treatment could just as easily explain it. Maynard, 35, conceived "her boys," as she calls them, naturally. But "every once in a while," she says, "people would ask what fertility doctors we used." (In fact, fertility drugs, which encourage the

release of multiple eggs, tend to produce fraternal, not identical, twins.)

More recently, however, the curiosity has faded, despite the fact that the boys are, as she calls them, "monozygotic identical twins." What's changed? Almost two years ago Andrew started using a wheelchair. Now, she says, "people are more likely to ask, 'Are they twins?'" Andrew has cerebral palsy, caused by brain damage in the womb, which afflicts his major motor skills. It wasn't because he and Matthew developed twin as twin transposition syndrome. The prenatal condition created abnormal blood flow to

the brains of both fetuses, and the boys share were in Matthew, who also has CP, but only a mild form.

This is not an isolated situation. "The truth is," says Dr. Jon Horvitz, a specialist in maternal and fetal medicine at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, "we're dealing with a small epidemic of multiple pregnancies." And such pregnancies carry many risks. While multiples represent one in 40 births in Canada, they account for one in five preterm births, one in five babies with low birth weight, and one in four babies with very low birth weight (under 3.3 lb.). This past March, says Donna Lalande, a volunteer with Multiple Births Canada and a Waterloo, Ont., mother of 19-year-old quads, "in a huge risk of dying on the first year." Many suffer long-term disabilities such as CP, behavioral disorders, or slow language development, the latter because multiples tend to communicate more with each other than their parents.

Even when twins are healthy, Lalande adds, "parents experience overwhelming challenges in caring for, feeding, transporting and paying for them." When her quads aspired in 1985, she had to quit her job as an insurance underwriter to raise them and their two-year-old brother. In the first year, she and her husband, David, spent \$15,000 on diapers, formula, special bottles and the rest. Now, her husband drives a higher salary as a high school vice principal, but with five kids in university and college, it's still a struggle.

Intercity speed also affects people: their with photos of the twins they've delivered, without a single paragraph on twin to own transposition syndrome or other possible complications in sight, says Lalande, saying what she's heard from other multiple-birth parents. And, of course, she adds, if you've marked years of fertility, "the thought of having two babies sounds like a jackpot." But she also notes that parents who conceive three or more fetuses are generally encouraged to reduce—that is, abort—one or two of the eggs. "I just can't imagine having to face that."

POPULATION SURGE aside, being a twin is, of course, like a number of an exclusive club. And this is a new trend: more than 100,000 twins are born each year in the United States. In 2004, a two-day festival for multiples taking place in the largest in the world, now runs 25th year. It will be the fifth world

in August—where did?—Twinsburg. Ohio, then christened in 1825 when Moses and Aaron Wilcox, African-American men who earned their livings, had nine children each and later died within hours of each other, settled in this now prosperous community 25 km southeast of Cleveland. Sunday began with a parade, a veritable exercise in the endless variations of sameness. Far more than six hours, twins and triplets—there were no quadruplets this year—marched along the main street, some on floats but most on foot, and many, many, pushing strollers. All shapes, ages and nationalities, they sported togas, extraterrestrial frigates and T-shirts bearing such slogans as “Glorious twins.”

Later, alongside the usual carnival fare of rides and Wiener roasts, revellers wandered their own multiple-specific attractions. There are baby walks, and—so clever of the relatively small festival twin organizers—don’t look alike contests. There are also booths pushing “twin Christmas cards,” twin scholarships in college, and prenatal health information. In a large research tent, scientists are testing hair, offering visitors and their offspring the made-of-participants’ checks, part of a free DNA test to establish whether they’re identical or fraternal twins for those whose spouses won’t tell the story. Women made an easy US\$30 by filling out a survey on their gynecological history.

What \$30 buys lunch for Kathy Reizenstein and Stefanie Nyberg, 32-year-old identical twins celebrating their fourth Twins Days. Kathy, an elementary school teacher from Parkers, Ore., and Stefanie, who wants teacher’s college this fall and lives in Okla., are about 90 km north of Parkers, are married nearly 20 years, down to their yellowed moustaches and flowered handbags. When they were growing up, says Stefanie, “everybody wanted to be different.” They completed, varying their clothes and later their hairstyles, but “deep down,” Kathy confesses, “we always wanted to be alike.”

Samurai considerations aside, the main reason the two took so little to for the special commemorative festival, however, today’s twin may well be society’s greatest gift and society’s good luck or family insurance. But in their heart of hearts many appear to be longing already only to each other. Hence the appeal of Twinsburg, and sharing time with others like them. “It’s one of the few places,” Stefanie says, “where we’ve been genuinely understood.”



OK, SO WHO HAS THE DIRTY DIAPER?

Clint Luszczynski feels more than the usual paternal pride as he pushes his four-year-old baby stroller down the wide-open streets of St. Clements, Ont. The father, he says, “is a good worker.” Chloe, a twin, Paige and Zach—who turned 1 on Aug. 5—fill out the Italian-made pram. Sister Jade, 3, is their

The Luszczynskis are a close-knit family of five for a planet.

middle child. At 20 weeks, ordered St. Joseph’s hospital in London, Ont. Three-and-a-half-weeks later, intended by a delivery team of around 30, the girls came to Paige and Zach both four pounds, two ounces, 40 cm (15 7/8 inches) and 40 cm (15 7/8 inches) and 40 cm (15 7/8 inches)—all healthy and without major complications.

On a Monday in July, the family of seven is the picture of contentment. Jade and Chloe snuggle into their dad’s arms as he rocks them in a rocking chair. Paige crawls across the glowing living room carpet in their spatted booties. As for the twins, Zach peers into a toy mirror as he nuzzles in his mom’s lap. Albino, sitting cross-legged on the floor is common position these days, says it’s not always so calm. But the trick to maintaining their sanity, the says, was to throw out the baby advice books and put all four on a regular feeding and sleeping schedule. That, and a small army of volunteers—over 30 a week in the first months. Although the number has now declined to six or his inside life inseparable, and always interesting.

statistic that linked survival rates with weight of pregnancy (it delivered at 24 weeks, they were still, two of the babies would likely die and one of the remaining two could be disabled), one doctor recommended reducing the number of fetuses from four to two. Rejected option, Albino stopped working and

at 20 weeks, ordered St. Joseph’s hospital in London, Ont. Three-and-a-half-weeks later, intended by a delivery team of around 30, the girls came to Paige and Zach both four pounds, two ounces, 40 cm (15 7/8 inches) and 40 cm (15 7/8 inches) and 40 cm (15 7/8 inches)—all healthy and without major complications.

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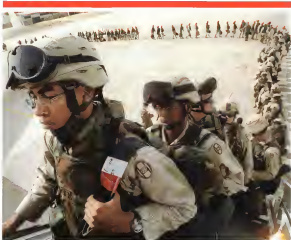
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ROGERS



The quasi-civilian National Guard is playing a major role in Iraq. 40,000 of them are now stationed there, and more than 130 have died.

Guard members have died in combat, the first such battle casualties since the Korean War in the 1950s.)

The Guard, which has 350,000 members, compared to 300,000 on active army duty, has historically been charged with local emergency work such as forest fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and riots, although it is expected to fight when called upon. "The current pace of deployment isn't sustainable," says Gen. John W. Libby of Nike's National Guard, told the *Washington Post*, which surveyed 23 state Guard commanders in June. "Over recruiting at down significantly from last year, and our recruitment rates are down also. We've got a level of reluctance with people in this year we haven't seen at the past." North Dakota's Maj. Gen. Michael J. Haugen told the *Post* that his state has mobilized as many troops

as were called up in the height of the Second World War. "We will eventually hit the wall and for certain special-unit units," Haugen said, "I'm across there."

As the ultimate inducement to Americans who voluntarily join up, the Pentagon offers the perk to send all perks. For conscripted soldiers, anyone wearing a uniform is eligible—we do everything, except conscripted soldiers. The *New Yorker* recently quoted Dr. Bob Lyons, chief of plastic surgery at

Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Tex. This includes facilities, more jobs, less unemployment (in the last three months of 2004, army surgeons performed 60 such operations) and liposuction. A typical example was former naval Lt. Cmdr. Jara Garcia, who grew up having her looks. "I wouldn't even smile in my wedding picture," she confessed before she had her chin recontoured, jaw recontoured, a nose job and her teeth straightened, all for nothing. Similar treatments on every man would have cost more than US\$100,000.

If the draft takes hold, these medical-laboratory terrorists who threaten would prove may find themselves facing history's most beautiful army.

Peter C. Newman's column appears monthly. pnewman@madabout.com



IT STILL ISN'T SAFE TO GO IN

Two movies, *Open Water* and *Mean Creek*, fill the water with predators from sharks to nasty teens

QUICK, PICK YOUR preferred water-cen predator, shark or even bull. Watch two new aquatic dramas, *Open Water* and *Mean Creek*, and the answer won't come that obvious anymore.

In the super-low-budget (\$130,000) *Open Water*, a couple on a scuba-diving tour are left behind by their boat. That would be a nightmare for anyone, but shark-phobes in particular might find it best to skip this one. Husband-and-wife filmmaking team Chris Monahan and Laura Lau achieved the use of semirealist, low-budget-generated effects and instead sent their actors into an area filled with grey reef and bull sharks (they did bring along a wrangler/keeper who assured them that particular population was used to people.) Watching these encounters seems under the couple's legs is terrifying—and thrilling. For anyone who is, it's just, just reasonably frightened by the water and its predators, then *Open Water* is a good kind of scare.

Starting off on dry land, work-classed yuppie Daniel and Susan, played by unknown Daniel Travis and Thelma Houston, are trying to estimate themselves from their daily lives for a vacation. These opening scenes at the house and in the car look like they belong in a student film, only slightly better than a home movie. Experiences are lowered and the danger of this movie actually scaring anyone seems pretty remote. Then come the water scenes and it's harder to blame. The dialogue goes flatter, sharper. Each frame is more increasing than the last as every angle delivers the exact same

ON LAND, the ultra-cheap *Open Water* looks like a student film; at sea each frame is more menacing than the last

Watching sharks swarm abandoned divers Ryan and Travis is stomach-turning and thrilling

image: miles and miles of open water. And even before the supporting cast of jellyfish, sawnager heads and sharks begin to close in, you're holding your breath.

But as *Open Water*, *Mean Creek* is the better, more disturbing movie. In an unnamed Oregon town, where parents are pretty much non-existent and kids are navigated by big brothers and peer pressure, a boat trip turns ugly fast (Kary Cullen) has recently been thrashed by the school bully, George (Josh Peltz). Now Sam's older brother, Rocky, and Rocky's two friends, want revenge. But Sam will only agree to something that doesn't cause George any physical pain. So a more mean and humiliating plan is hatched, and all involved, including Sam's unknowing girlfriend, head down to the local creek. When it turns out that George is not so bull after all, just in need of some friends, Sam and company must decide whether to go through with it.

First-time writer/director Jacob Aaron Ekman has made something so powerful as *Stand by Me* and *Land of the Phos*, but quieter and subtler. It's more along the lines of the indie arthouse hit *George Washington*, in which the stories and crises of non-prototypical, self-sufficient kids are told in a non-judgmental, whole-like fashion. Most impressive is his way with young actors, drawing out exceptional performances from the board. It's difficult not to compare Cullen to the youngins of the *Shawshank* brothers—with his head or sibling, Macaulay, considering some of Rocky's best scenes involve acting opposite a pretty blond girl, reminiscent of Macaulay's finest work in *My Girl*. But refreshingly, Rocky has zero cute-did-does-in.

While *Open Water* has rightfully surprised Haley Joel Osment as the go-to guy for dramatic adolescent roles and has not on his share of movies (since, from *Can Can* to *Me*), this one is nearly akin to him by his older son on stars—no less necessary Sean Meekins (Zemir) and Ryan Kelley (Smalls), and the more experienced Trevor Morgan (The Parrot, SR). As characters with serious father issues (he they dead, gay or merely indifferent), these boys are wounded, burning with rage, insecurity and emotional threat. And when they paddle out alone on bulling a bully, they're as deadly as sharks. **B**



ONE BIG STINKING MESS

We survived the flood—and then the full impact of the disaster struck us

SIX WEEKS AGO, July 11, 3 p.m. Rain and wind begin hammering our Edmonson home for 90 minutes, lightning crackles and thunder dances on the roof. Hailstones and leaves drive the snow. The road and sidewalk disappear and the water crawls steadily up the lawn from the top of the basement stairs, we watch the enormous crop of sewer water from the street. Dark wispish ash against the basement. Then a great gush of sewage floods everything. With the rise of a tsunami, it creeps in a continuous torrent from the toilet as well. The water level rises 20 inches. Finally it stops 20 cm deep. Then the sewer back water back in

a long rushing "whhh" like silence follows. It's an hour's effort we can think again.

From 5:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., my husband, Ken, and I take turns trying to contact our insurance company. A recording repeats, "Due to technical difficulties. Later we learn 5,000 other Edmonsonians were also reaching out for help."

In terms of disaster, some say flood preferable. It causes little, leaving only water, charred remains, a few blackened studs pointing to the sky. A flood spews things around. Gramma Anna's crochets, a child's shoes, items casually left on the coffee table. A flood rises like hopes salvaging anything is a race against reality.

Day 2. A neighbor's daughter is on our doorstep with a shop vacuum. I easily imagine her with hair and wings. My cousin hurries over with supper and gets right to work. It's day two carrying in all our things home full of stuff that can't be changed to the garbage and the ways at it for nine hours. Day 3. The neighbor gets to our clean sides and the process is motion (my sister often will wait for weeks). We have his determination on what we had a price tag. There is no formula for coverage of the impossible.

More days go by and the stretch in our home repeats. More clouds the well piling up, the bedclothes, across the carpets. We salvage what we can, splashing through freely ground floors raised with leaves shredded by the hail. We wear rubber boots, protective gloves and old clothes. We repeatedly scrub the kitchen counter, the phone, door

panels and makings with bleach or antibacterial soap. Periodically we escape to a motel for the night.

Our daughter arrives from hundreds of kilometers away and runs up and down stairs, carrying more boxes out to the porch. Out on the garage, we discard everything I couldn't throw out before. A kindergarten drawing, report cards, a computer screen to mom and dad. One from our early computer days reads, "Noooo, nooooo, nooooo. You forgot to put on the jacket cover."



Our emotions are indescribable. When Ken reads the warning on the bottom of a wall's iron-covered with ash. "Do NOT remove an arrow," we laugh to the edge of hysteria. Day 20 brings total peace when I complete our last job of items to donate with the insurance broker, then sleep joy when I finish. As I lay photographs apart, images along to the back of the one in front. Half face. One eye missing. All that's left of a photo of Gramma Margaret in the portrait in her face. When I see it, the tears won't stop.

From the lower shelves of every room, we pull things and buckling books. We fill box

after box. And spread out on the lawn or draped over trees. Deep turquoise silk from Thailand, wool mittens, Uncle Pete's Ukrainian kilts, a baby bonnet. The neighbor, noting that sewage gets into floors, asks us, "Would you really want to wear or use it?" We stack a mountain of black garbage bags.

Day 13. Hardwood floors that might be restored finally goes into storage. Day 14. City waste management crews take the rest: suitcases, wall units, mood clothing, moldy basement floorboards and whatever else was contaminated. Around the city, hundreds of workers assess damage, conduct safety checks on water, gas and appliances, demolish, haul or rebuild, patch and then for 12 to 14 hours a day, six days a week. The disaster recovery crew at our house made up of young men from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. All are hard-working and empathetic. One, in particular, has the sensitivity of a grief counselor.

Day 15. The cleanup and demolition of our entire basement, built by my father in 1963, is finally finished. We're exhausted. The only sound is the distant demolition of a house on the street. The smell of disinfectant is fading.

Day 18. The provincial government allocates emergency relief funds. As a nearby school,

we join the thousands to fill our eligibility forms. On hand to offer immediate assistance are a variety of community services, the Salvation Army and other agencies. And from the beginning, thousands of friends, neighbors and volunteers have provided equipment, help and encouragement. They're our Edmonson heroes.

Day 45. It's quiet today. Further discussions with the neighbor and contractor are pending. And an empty basement echoes.

Florence McKee is now wondering what's in those boxes that are missing items. To contact her, email: florence@edmonson.ca

BACKTALK

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Before there was k-os, there was suburban street hockey

Hip-hop artist channels James Brown, Public Enemy and Bad Company

After acknowledging family and friends in the liner notes of his new CD, rapper k-os (born Kevin Brown) thanks former NFL quarterback Tony Stewart—a man he's never met. "When I used to play street hockey, the other kids would say, 'The Day Laffer' or 'The Wayne Gretzky,'" says k-os, who grew up a member of the only black family like Whitey White, a neighborhood legend. "I was having fun in until I found out about McGreevey. He was one of the only black players in the league back then. And through there was no way he could know it, by breaking

ing down barriers in the NHL, he helped me become part of the game and cool." k-os's hockey career stalled on those suburban streets, but he's since made it. He's a former professional in the streets, he beautifully fuses a range of sounds and influences—including James Brown, Bad Company, Public Enemy and the Beatles. "It's a huge channel of energy and emotion that's so loud like you're changing the radio station with every song," says k-os, 32. "I get bored listening to one thing. I think I have 100,000 songs."

JOHN INTINI

BUZZ LIST

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN by Lisa Fiedler

2. This one will be the most talked about of the year. It's a thriller about a woman who has the perfect memory.

3. A book in most months of the year has a soft spot for actor Daniel Craig. He's the best of the best.

4. A book in most months of the year has a soft spot for actor Daniel Craig. He's the best of the best.

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14. A book in most months of the year has a soft spot for actor Daniel Craig. He's the best of the best.



BUSH'S REALLY BAD YEAR

The conventioners will come to praise him. The voters should dump him.

IN THE LAST BLAST OF SUMMER, with the heat of the political high season still ahead, George W. Bush stands an actual chance of getting re-elected. This fact, like other oddities of American life—Fox News, say, or *Pam Eilbrow*—is very hard to explain.

Now, with the Republicans will gather in New York to laud the President's policies, and his family values, and his resolute stance in the war on terror, as if he were riding into the convention on a wave of success. Even Democrats, replying from the sidelines, will be mostly respectful, careful not to offend squeamish financiers in a country that's pinched

enough in it all. Which is why Bush arrives (he Manhattan backdrop, no rearing American flag) at the ballroom as an underdog underdog in chief who grabbed the bullhorn at Ground Zero, back when a shaken nation yelled "Round him and before his own back-bashed hush blow it all off!"

And blow it he has—"big time," to borrow Dick Cheney's phrase. *Page time*, like his time here.

A Babe Bush story comes to mind. It was in the middle of the Great Depression, and the Babe was demanding a whopping \$50,000 salary—which, at the time, was more than President Herbert Hoover made. "I know," Bush firmly responded, "but I need a better salary than he did."

This year, most carefully employed Americans can say the same about Bush. He's turned a robust salary into record deficits, but he's more than any president since Hoover. He's miraculously transformed global goodwill after 9/11 into fear and loathing of the U.S.A. He's watched his justifications for his Iraq war—WMD, sit at Quesle Baghdad did *uh-uh*—evolve like a dream, leaving him clinging to a whiff of liberation line just in case for the Abu Ghraib horror show.

Even capturing Saddam Hussein only briefly stalled his sliding public approval, as flag-draped coffins keep coming home from the mission he'd set out "accomplish" over a year ago. That's where the line hasn't helped either. Never mind the casual voice over by Michael Moore (like the Babe, a large, long-waisted lefty)—that classroom



clip, Bush looking bedaddled for seven long minutes after listening the nation was under attack, *disarming enough*. They get a work claim denied without excuse, *what?* How hard is that? And he's *crabby*—what can you say about an administration when people even doubt its terror *plans*?

Little wonder that hisping, hisping cast of respondents to an informal survey of historians rated Bush's presidency an overall failure. Yes, historians tend to be liberal, and maybe it's too early to pass judgment. But their judgments—on integrity, foreign relations, fiscal policies, and liberties, health care, the environment—are striking nonetheless. Bush, said one, "is by far the most irresponsible, unethically, unaccountable occupant of our formerly highest office in the land that there has ever been."

Okay, so maybe you think that's over the top, maybe not. But he is running neck-and-neck in the polls with John Kerry? What's

going on? Parity in the old culture club, the GOP preaching the religious-right gospel on abortion and gay marriage. Parity in the Fear Factor—don't change lanes in a rain swamp—and the intentional blurring of eyewitness that left a majority of Americans seeing Saddam's phantasmic fingerprints on 9/11. Then there's Kerry's *chances* and the Republicans' relentless attacks on him: flip-flopper, undisciplined senator, liberal and gay, not any of us. Something fancy about this Vietnam hero tale, as well. Forget his band of brothers, the ones who actually served on his boat—we've got our own band of Dabbles who know the real story.

It's time for Democrats to play rough too. Make clear their opponent can't be trusted, that he sent Americans off to fight and die on a lie and has been failing far too often. *Over time*, you want to roll flip-flops, you're all back doing Bush's Iraq contrivance. Drive home that his Saddam obsession motivated a new generation of terrorists, while listing (many of the self) had guys *go away*—that he made America *more* not *more*. And for the Clinton on Kerry's record, an occasional reminder of Bush's past—ABOL. National Guardians, failed states boiled out by daily's rich friends—wouldn't hurt.

A lot can happen between now and November. If terrorism were to strike on U.S. soil, would people rally 'round the Prec again—or turn on him for not keeping them safe? Hard to say. But whatever said, my money's on Kerry as in the recent *CNN* an election, the polls may be right off the end but the note, I think, will be more decisive. Friends in the States—Canada is my home but not my native land—offer encouraging reports of Republicans who backed Bush in 2000 now saying, no, sorry, not this time. Nice to hear. Nice to find a cockeyed faith in America's collective wisdom, and in the simple justice of the workplace.

He's done a lousy job. Fire him.

Paul Vitell is an author.
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